

- Hall Vows to Continue Bringing Airspace Redesign Concerns to FAA -

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY19) expressed his disappointment today with the FAA's refusal to hold a public meeting in the Pound Ridge area on the continued implementation of the FAA's airspace redesign. In January, Hall wrote a letter to the FAA to officially ask for such a meeting. Earlier this month, the FAA rejected Hall's request, claiming that "the FAA is precluded by current litigation from complying with your request . . . We cannot respond to inquiries from the general public, nor can we answer questions about matters that are in litigation (such as the redesign)."

"I share the frustration of the residents of Pound Ridge over the lack of progress with the FAA on this important issue," said Hall. "I'm not going to let the FAA turn a deaf ear to the concerns of the people of Pound Ridge. If the FAA refuses to hear directly from the people affected by this redesign, I will continue to take their concerns to FAA officials myself until they fully understand the amount of aircraft noise and agree to hold a long-overdue public meeting."

Since taking office last year, Hall has vigorously fought the implementation of the New York City area's Airspace Redesign. He personally met with officials from both the FAA and the Department of Transportation in an attempt to explain the effects of the redesign on his constituents, many of whom have experienced a substantial increase in airplane noise overhead.

In an attempt to get a Congressional order to stop the redesign, Congressman Hall supported an amendment to the Department of Transportation funding bill offered by Representative Frelinghuysen of New Jersey. Had it passed, that amendment would have prohibited the FAA from implementing the redesign and forced the agency to find alternative means to reduce airspace congestion. Unfortunately, this effort fell short of the majority required for passage.

Congressman Hall has also been supportive of lawsuits filed seeking an injunction to stop the redesign. In October 2007, at Congressman Hall's request, FAA representatives attended a meeting of local officials from Westchester County and the Town of Pound Ridge and local activist.

"This meeting provided an initial opportunity for the FAA to hear the concerns of the community and to explain why residents of Northern Westchester have experienced an increased amount of noise, but it was no substitute for a full public meeting," said Congressman Hall. "This community deserves a full public meeting."